

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 SP-02 ACDA-10 MC-02

EA-13 PRS-01 DRC-01 /082 W
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R 100642Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0943

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 10739

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UR, US

SUBJECT: AFCC VIEWS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

SECDEF FOR ISA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ZEWDE TOLD BRITISH AMBASSADOR MORRIS SEPTEMBER 6 HE HAD ASKED ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO BRAZZAVILLE WHETHER AFCC HAD YET REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN POLICY. REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT AFCC HAD REACHED CONCLUSIONS ONLY WITH REGARD TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IT CONSIDERED THAT USG HAD BEEN USING ETHIOPIA AS A DUMPING GROUND FOR OBSOLETE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR LAST 25 YEARS, THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD NOT CONTINUE IN VIEW OF THE SOMALI THREAT, AND THAT ETHIOPIA MUST CONSEQUENTLY TURN TO SOVIET UNION OR CHINA FOR ARMS.

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2. ZEWDE TOLD AMBASSADOR MORRIS HE HAD ADVISED THAT AFCC NOT JUMP

TO CONCLUSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. HE OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIETS CAN BE RUTHLESS IN SUCH MATTERS, THAT THEY HAVE A HEAVY INVESTMENT IN SOMALIA, AND THAT THEY MAY PROMISE FAR MORE THAN THEY WOULD DELIVER. AS FOR THE CHINESE, IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THEY COULD PROVIDE THE ARMS ETHIOPIA NEEDS. MOREOVER, TURNING TO THE CHINESE WOULD ALIENATE BOTH THE SOVIETS AND THE AMERICANS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR AFCC MEMBERS TO CONSULT BEFORE TAKING ACTION WITH GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE AFCC MEMBERS SAID THEY WOULD NOT OBJECT IF HE EXPLORED POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS AT THE BRAZZAVILLE CONFERENCE.

3. IN BRAZZAVILLE PRESIDENT NYERERE TOLD ZEWDE HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS WITH AFCC MEMBERS THE TANZANIAN EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ZEWDE STOPPED IN KHARTOUM EN ROUTE BACK TO ADDIS ABABA AND FOUND PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DISCUSSING THE SUDANESE EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE. (NIMEIRI ALSO INDICATED HE WANTED TO PUT IN A WORD FOR THE EMPEROR.) ZEWDE TOLD AMBASSADOR MORRIS HE WOULD THEREFORE TRY TO PERSUADE THE AFCC TO SEND DELEGATION TO KHARTOUM AND DAR FOR CONVERSATIONS OF THIS NATURE. HE SAID HE EXPECTED SUCH A DELEGATION, HEADED BY MOD LG AMAN, TO PROCEED AT AN EARLY DATE.
WYMAN

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NNN

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